

Applicants : Lucile VAYSSE-LUDOT, Jean-Pierre LECOUE, Pascal LANGLOIS  
Title : Industrial synthesis of tetraesters of 5-[bis(carboxymethyl)amino]-  
3-carboxymethyl-4-cyano-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, and  
synthesis of bivalent salts of ranelic acid.

\* \* \* \* \*

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

As soon as the Serial No. and Filing Date have been accorded the above-identified application, kindly enter the following amendment:

IN THE ABSTRACT: Kindly replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract sheet provided herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS: Kindly cancel claims 1-14 and replace with the following claims 15-28, which correspond to each cancelled claim.

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REMARKS:

A few constructive editorial changes have been made in the claims to bring them somewhat more into line with U.S. practice and requirements.

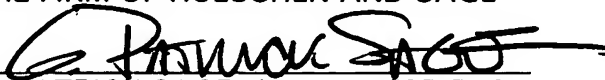
Applicants have cancelled all of the originally filed claims, 1-14. New claims 15-28 have been added to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the invention, notwithstanding Applicants' belief that the claims would have been allowable as originally filed. The replacement Claims are attached hereto.

Applicant claims the benefit of French Application No. 02.11765 filed on September 24, 2002, a certified copy of which and translation thereof will follow under separate cover.

Entry of the amendments and favorable action on the merits are all hereby respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

  
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Enclosure: Return Postal Card Receipt  
Replacement Claims 15-28